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JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAR 2005

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Original): A method for generating an ultrashort pulse, comprising the steps of:
converting a laser pulse once into a laser pulse having another wavelength;
reconverting the laser pulse having another wavelength into a laser pulse having an initial wavelength to improve the contrast at a front part of the pulse; and
amplifying the pulse by a laser to generate an ultrashort pulse.

2 (Original): The method for generating an ultrashort pulse according to claim 1,
wherein the laser is an excimer laser.

3 (Original): The method for generating an ultrashort pulse according to claim 2,
wherein the laser pulse is converted into a pulse having another wavelength by
performing stimulated Raman scattering; and
the reversion of the pulse to a pulse having the initial wavelength is performed by
performing four-wave mixing.

4 (Original): The method for generating an ultrashort pulse according to claim 1,
wherein the amplification of the pulse is saturation amplification.

5 (Currently Amended): An ultrashort pulse generating apparatus, comprising:
a laser;
a ($\lambda/4$)-wavelength plate; and
a polarizer, wherein

a laser pulse is once converted into a laser pulse having another wavelength;
the laser pulse having another wavelength is reconverted into a laser pulse having an initial wavelength to improve the contrast at a front part of the pulse; and
the pulse is amplified by a laser to generate an ultrashort pulse.

6 (Original): The ultrashort pulse generating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the laser is an excimer laser.

7 (Original): The ultrashort pulse generating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the laser pulse is converted into a pulse having another wavelength by performing stimulated Raman scattering; and
the reversion of the pulse to a pulse having the initial wavelength is performed by performing four-wave mixing.

8 (Original): The ultrashort pulse generating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the amplification of the pulse is saturation amplification.